

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the partial or complete separation of a mixture comprising hydrogen chloride and phosgene, ~~possibly solvents and possibly low boilers and inerts as are typically obtained in the preparation of isocyanates by reaction of amines with phosgene~~, which comprises:

firstly carrying out a partial or complete condensation of phosgene[[,]],
then [[a]] distillation or stripping ~~step~~ in a column to remove the hydrogen chloride from the bottom product phosgene; and

subsequently a scrub of the top product hydrogen chloride by ~~means of the~~ ~~a~~ process solvent to absorb the phosgene in the process solvent.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[A]] ~~The~~ process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the partial or complete condensation of phosgene is carried out at from -40°C to 40°C and pressures of from 1 to 35 bar, ~~preferably from 3 to 16 bar~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[A]] ~~The~~ process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the distillation to remove hydrogen chloride from phosgene is carried out at a temperature of the bottom of from 5 to 150°C, ~~preferably from 5 to 50°C~~, a pressure at the top of from 1 to 35 bar, ~~preferably from 1.5 to 4.0 bar~~, and a temperature at the top of from -20°C to 30°C, ~~preferably from -10°C to 0°C~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): [[A]] ~~The~~ process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ ~~claim 1~~, wherein the hydrogen chloride is removed from the phosgene by stripping with an

~~inert gas such as nitrogen, process solvent vapor, phosgene or another gaseous or vaporizable substance.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4
claim 1, wherein the absorption or scrub is carried out ~~using by~~ the process solvent.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5
claim 1, wherein the temperature at the top of the absorber is from -40°C to 10°C, ~~preferably from -15°C to 0°C~~, the temperature at the bottom is from -10°C to 30°C, ~~preferably from 0 to 10°C~~, and the pressure at the top is 1-35 bar, ~~preferably 1.5-4.0 bar~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6
claim 1, wherein ~~the an~~ absorption medium stream for the absorption has been saturated beforehand with hydrogen chloride ~~and, if desired, the heat of condensation has been removed.~~

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7
claim 1, wherein the heat of condensation of hydrogen chloride and phosgene in ~~the an~~ absorption medium is removed by intermediate cooling in the absorber.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8
claim 1, wherein an after-purification by ~~means of~~ adsorption, ~~preferably on activated carbon~~, is carried out.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9
claim 1, wherein the scrub is carried out ~~using by~~ chlorobenzene.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): [[A]] ~~The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10 claim 1, wherein the bottom product phosgene obtained at the bottom of the distillation column or the phosgene solution is recirculated to the reaction section of an isocyanate synthesis.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the phosgene obtained at the bottom of the distillation column or the phosgene solution is used as A runback in distillation or reaction columns, or as a scrubbing solution for absorbers or scrubbers, comprising the bottom product phosgene as claimed in claim 1.~~

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): [[A]] ~~The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 14 claim 1, wherein the hydrogen chloride obtained is subsequently compressed.~~

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): [[A]] ~~The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15 claim 1, wherein the hydrogen chloride obtained is subsequently used for added in a preparation of ethylene dichloride (or vinyl chloride) or for a Deacon process.~~

Claim 17 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mixture further comprises solvents, low boilers, and inert gases obtained in a preparation of isocyanates by reaction of amines with phosgene.

Claim 18 (New): The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein a heat of condensation has been removed.